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Bennett, Cannon Fight for More Park City Water

Legislation allows water to be moved between federal and non-federal facilities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) and U.S. Rep. Chris Cannon (R-Utah-3) today introduced legislation that would allow Park City and Summit County to develop water for the 2002 Olympics, as well as for future growth needs.

"As one of the highest growth areas of our state, Summit County has an immediate need for increased water delivery," said Bennett. "The legislation we have introduced today addresses the county's long-term water needs, as well as its short term needs in planning for the portion of the 2002 Winter Games which will take place in Park City."

This bill authorizes the Department of Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District to deliver federal and non-federal water to Park City and Summit County using facilities associated with the original Weber Basin Project. This authorization is a result of the Warren Act, which requires Congressional approval of water projects to be moved from non-federal to federal projects. Exemptions are routine in Western reclamation projects.

"Park City Mayor Brad Olch has asked for help and my office is eager to do that. Hopefully this bill solves the problem of water shortages in Summit County and Park City," Cannon said. "By taking this action, Park City can develop water for the 2002 Olympics, as well as for its future growth needs."

"This project is very important to the future of Park City and Summit County," said Park City Mayor Brad Olch. "I want to thank the delegation, especially Senator Bennett and Representative Cannon, for introducing this legislation which is necessary for the project to become a reality."

Cannon and Bennett noted that a total of 10,000 acre feet of water is included in this project -- 5,000 acre feet of non-federal water from Smith Morehouse, along with 5,000 acre feet of federal water from the Weber Basin project. This effort will utilize federally built project facilities to deliver water to the Snyderville Basin area of Summit County, and to Park City.

In 1996, an agreement was struck between Park City and Summit County officials, and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District for this effort.